(b) if so, the impact of trade liberalisation on India's agricultural exports and imports since its open door policy of 1991;

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the fresh policy initiatives taken to correct the reported shift and developing imbalance in the nature and content of the exports/imports

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (d) The article referred to is apparently based on certain studies and draws certain broad conclusions on the impact of trade liberalisation on agri-trade. Without commenting on the validity or otherwise of the conclusions, it may be said that the changes in the export and import baskets reflect realities of international trade which in turn are dependent on a wide variety of factors. The Government however, is alive to the situation and has undertaken a number of initiatives to promote agri-exports such as Agri Export Zones, provision of financial assistance through various schemes being operated by Commodity Boards/Authorities, etc.

Industrial growth centres in Assam

500. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up industrial growth centres in Assam during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the location-wise details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) Under the Growth Centre Scheme, three Growth Centres are to be set up in Assam. Of these, two Centres at Chariduar (Distt: Sonitpur) and Matia (Distt: Goalpara) have been approved by the Central Government and are various stages of development. For the third Growth Centre to be set up at Chaygaon and Patgaon in Kamrup Distt., Project Report has been recently submitted by the State Government. The project report is under consideration.